



TORONTO



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ILLUSTRATED TORONTO

"The Queen City of the West"

By **G. MERCER ADAM**

PUBLISHED BY

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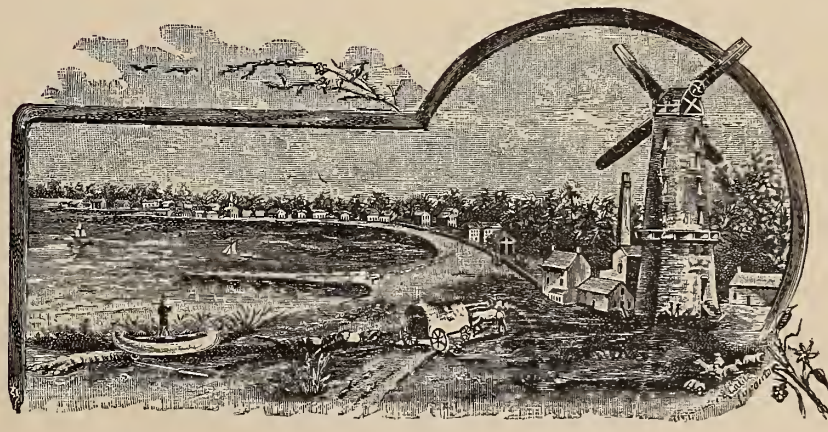
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MONTREAL.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

TORONTO:

SOLD BY ALL BOOKSELLERS.



. . TORONTO IN 1834 . .



Specially engraved for

BIRD'S EYE VIEW OF TORONTO.

["Illustrated Toronto."]

ILLUSTRATED TORONTO

EARLY SITE OF THE CITY.



ORONTO, "the Queen City of the West," had an earlier history than that associated with the name of JOHN GRAVES SIMCOE, its loyal military founder and first Governor of the Province. Fifty years before Simcoe came to enter upon his administrative duties, in what was then a forest wilderness, the French had established a trading-post by Ontario's shores with the design of retaining in their hands the commerce in furs which the Indians had hitherto carried round the lake to the English posts at Niagara and Choueguen (Oswego). A monumental pillar within the enclosure of the Exhibition Grounds marks the site of this early stockade. Its position was favourable for commerce with the native tribes that made use of the Humber River, long known as "the Pass by Toronto," in their passage from Ontario's waters to the country of the Hurons and to the liquid highway to the Far West. The post, which was known sometimes as Fort Toronto, and

sometimes as Fort Rouillé, was destroyed in 1756, to prevent its falling into the hands of the English, when Destiny decreed that the Cross of St. George should supplant the *fleur de lis* as the emblem of dominion in this section of the New World. After its destruction, Solitude resumed its silent sway until the last decade of the century. In 1791, Pitt had passed in the Parliament of the Mother Country the measure which divided "France in the New World" into the



GOVERNMENT HOUSE, CORNER OF KING AND SIMCOE STREETS
Upper Canada when the Colonies had achieved Independence.

Provinces of Upper and Lower Canada. To give effect to the measure, the new Province to be wrested from the wilderness was to have its bounds set; it was to be given a Constitution; and a Lieutenant-Governor was to be sent out to call into existence the machinery of government and to administer the Provincial affairs. The choice of a Governor fell upon Major-General Simcoe, son of a naval officer who had served with Wolfe at Quebec, and himself an active and heroic campaigner in the Revolutionary War. As the Commander of the "Queen's Rangers," a Royalist Corps which had been raised in the Revolted Colonies and had there done loyal service for the Crown, the choice was a fitting one. It was this chiefly, since it placed at the head of the Civil Government a tried officer of the King who had won the confidence of the band of U. E. Loyalists which had settled in

Simcoe arrived in the Colony in 1792, and, after

organizing his Government at Kingston, he proceeded to Niagara, where he summoned the first Provincial Parliament. When this had met and been prorogued, the Governor set out on a tour through the Province, to inform himself of the physical features of the sphere of his almost kingly duty, and with the design of selecting a site for the Capital. It is interesting, now almost a century afterwards, to review the events connected with this finding of a capital. Lord Dorchester (Sir Guy Carleton), then Governor of the Lower Province, was, we learn, in favour of Kingston; while Simcoe, it seems, had in view a site on the banks of the Thames. As we shall presently see, however, neither Kingston nor the site where London has arisen, was chosen, but a section of the



JARVIS STREET (WEST SIDE), NEAR BLOOR



PORT OF TORONTO IN 1841

From a contemporary print.

region since overspread by the capital, lying between the Humber and the Don. Within these limits, now indeed almost overspreading them, lies the city of to-day.

YORK (TORONTO) BECOMES THE CAPITAL.

As the years pass by, the patriot citizen will with increasing interest let his imagination linger on that memorable scene, witnessed by a handful of Mississaga Indians, in Toronto harbour on that beautiful May morning in the year 1793. The subject is one worthy to be commemorated by the skilled brush of the historic painter. It is a procession of State barges, in one of which sits erect the sturdy figure of the Governor of the youthful colony, scanning with eager delight the finely sheltered basin which he had just entered, and whose experienced eye, observing the cleared delta of the Don, at once fixed upon it as the site of the future capital. History has preserved to us a contemporary record of the appearance of Toronto harbour, in a descriptive reminiscence of Surveyor-General Bouchette, then engaged in a professional tour of the lakes. "I distinctly recollect," says the pioneer hydrographer, "the untamed aspect which the country exhibited when first I entered the beautiful basin. Dense and trackless forests lined the margin of the lake and reflected their inverted images in its glassy surface. The wandering savage had constructed his ephemeral habitation beneath their luxuriant foliage—the group then consisted of two families of Mississagas—and the bay and neighbouring marshes were the hitherto uninhabited haunts of immense coveys of wild fowl." The beauty and shelter afforded by the Bay of Toronto—as the present writer has elsewhere observed—were such as readily to commend the site as a desirable one for the location of a city. It gave access, as we have seen, by the most direct path, to Lake la Clie (Simcoe) and the waters of Huron, and lay in close proximity to the Humber river and "the Place of Meeting," as the word "Toronto" denotes, of the Indians of the great Huron-Algonquin family of the region. Moreover, it was within easy hail of Niagara, the British fort on the opposite shore of the lake, and in the line of communication with the parent colony in the East. How these advantages were to tell in favour of the selection of Toronto as a capital we already know ; what the embryonic city was to become we shall ere long discover.

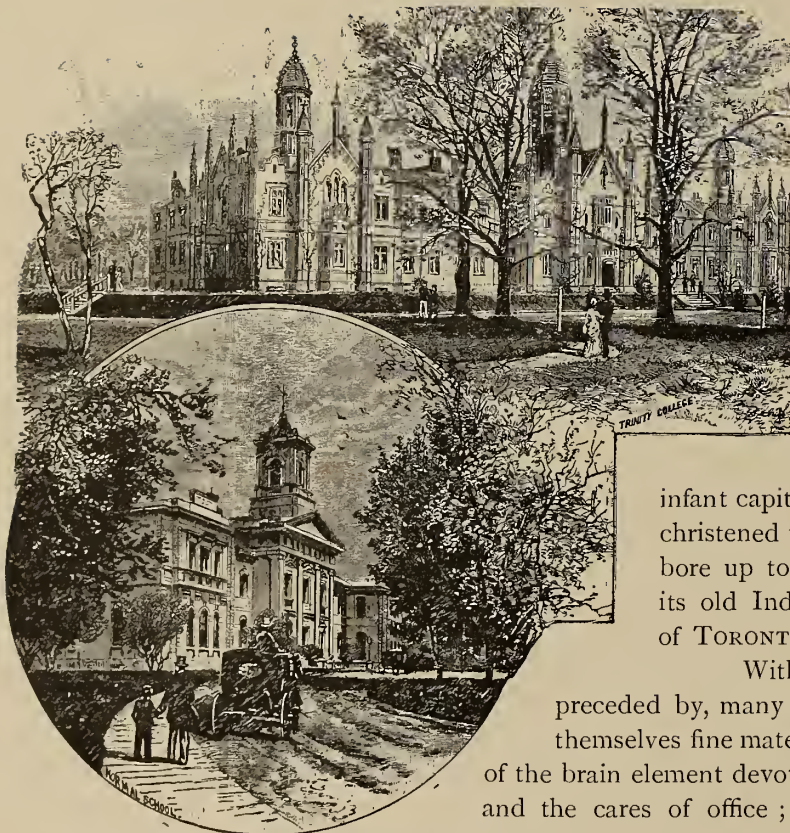


TORONTO, FROM THE ISLAND.

THE BEGINNINGS OF TORONTO.

When, in the fulness of time, Simcoe and the advance guard of civilization appeared on the scene, all that there was of human interest to greet the new-comers were, as we learn, "the two families of Mississagas," whose lone wigwams were pitched on the wooded shores of the harbour and the lake. Nor were other sections of the Ontario peninsula then more populous, if we except the district which the Crown reserved to the Mohawks, in the valley of the Grand River, for the part they had taken in the Revolutionary War on the loyal side. Of the great Huron nation that once densely populated the region north of Toronto, there remained only straggling remnants, to recall the doom of the tribe at the remorseless hands of the Iroquois, in the middle of the seventeenth century. Nature had done her share in obliterating the marks of rapine and bloodshed which then stained the earth ; but, though she had reclothed the region with her green garment, the human life had not been renewed, to play a further part in the tragic drama of inter-tribal strife. A new era had come ; and, with it, the savage pastime of the redman was to give place to the peaceful toil of the white.

When Simcoe made choice of his capital, he went energetically to work to create it. To those who look upon Toronto in the glory of to-day, it must be said, he builded better than he knew. Marvellous has been the transformation, and that within the brief space of a hundred years ! As yet, however, it was but the cradling-time of the city-that-was-to-be ; and modest were its outlines even long after the Simcoe régime. The real germ of the town was the Governor's canvas-tent (it had belonged to the navigator Captain Cook), in which, on an open space by the mouth of the Don, the sturdy soldier-administrator spent a winter, while the Queen's Rangers were set the task of hewing down the forest and clearing a site for the Upper Canada 'Westminster.' The latter consisted of two large halls, in one of which met the Courts of Justice, in the other the Provincial Legislature. Almost concurrently with the erection of these buildings, an arterial line of communication was cut by the soldiery for thirty miles through the virgin woods to the Holland River and the waterways to the west, while a post-road, traversing the Province, was also hewn out of the forest, giving access to the heart of the peninsula and the old French settlements and English military posts at the



TRINITY UNIVERSITY AND THE EDUCATION OFFICE.

Detroit and beyond. In the airy canvas-home of the Governor, Simcoe, we are told, dispensed a lavish hospitality, for he had a frank and genial disposition ; and as politics had not then begun to warm the atmosphere, there was need of good cheer and the fervent manner of a kindly host. The cares of government, we also learn, were varied by gubernatorial tours through the Province, and by picnics to the summer chateau, which Simcoe had built for himself at Castle Frank, on the heights overlooking the Don. Circumstances, unhappily however, cut short Simcoe's stay in Upper Canada, and his removal came before the buildings were ready for the first meeting of Parliament in the infant capital, which, in honour of the King's soldier-son, he had christened the royal town of YORK. This was the name the city bore up to the year 1834, when, with incorporation, it resumed its old Indian designation, the beautiful and sonorous appellation of TORONTO.

With Simcoe had come, and to some extent he had been preceded by, many men of good muscle and brain, who ere long approved themselves fine material for the rearing of a new commonwealth. A portion of the brain element devoted itself in the youthful community to professional life and the cares of office ; while the muscle and fibre contingent took to the

humbler, yet useful, tasks of agriculture and trade and the building of a town to dwell in. Under the joint operation of these forces, the social and industrial development of York went on apace. The one century closed and the other opened upon a scene of active toil and hard-won achievement. Nor was the field of labour confined within the ragged limits of the embryo city. The recesses of the surrounding forest were invaded by courageous settlers, seeking to found a home for themselves and their families in the woods. To these hardy and self-denying pioneers the city and Province owe a debt which even veneration of their memory can but ill repay.

TORONTO DURING WAR-TIME AND IN REBELLION.

With the year 1812, the infant city had for dry-nurse the hag of War, and heavy was the hand that reared her for nearly thirty months afterwards. Very noble is the story of this era in the annals of the young commonwealth. With the beginning of the year there had been mutterings of a coming storm, young Republicanism not having got over the acrimony of separation, while the militant party among the American people was still bitterly hostile to England. It was an unfilial act, just then, when the Motherland was in the throes of her desperate conflict with Napoleon, to seek cause of quarrel with her, and to precipitate an invading host on her loyal Canadian colony. Congress in 1812, however, was in a bellicose mood, and the war-party of the time was led by reckless, designing men. Though they expected much, little did the Americans gain, by the invasion of Canada. Unequal was the struggle and great the disparity in numbers in the two opposing countries. In the British Colony the population did not exceed 300,000, of which only about a fourth was settled in the Upper Province. Its fighting strength, all told, was not more than 4,500 men, of which only a moiety were "regulars." Less than a third of this number was then in Upper Canada, where it had a frontier of over 1,500 miles to defend, threatened at many points by a large and fairly disciplined army. The population of the United States was at the time close upon eight millions.

Though war was declared, nominally, against Great Britain, its brunt fell wholly, or almost wholly, upon Canada. Fortunately, she had then as acting-Administrator a gallant English officer, Sir Isaac Brock, with a patriotic and high-



Specially engraved for

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO.

[“Illustrated Toronto.”

spirited community at his back, to meet with courage and determination the sore trial through which the country was about to pass. Nor was Canadian valour wanting in force or effect through the long and bitter struggle. Into the details of the contest it is unnecessary here to enter, save in so far as they connect themselves with the fortunes of Toronto, the Provincial Capital. The war broke out in June, 1812, and within a month an American army, of 2,500 men, crossed the Detroit River and entered Canada. At other points, chiefly on the Niagara frontier, and in the Lower Province, the country was subsequently invaded, but in all quarters was invasion heroically and stubbornly resisted. In the West, the invading army, having fallen back on Detroit, surrendered to a small force under General Brock ;



COLLEGE AVENUE.



UNIVERSITY DOORWAY.



McMASTER UNIVERSITY.

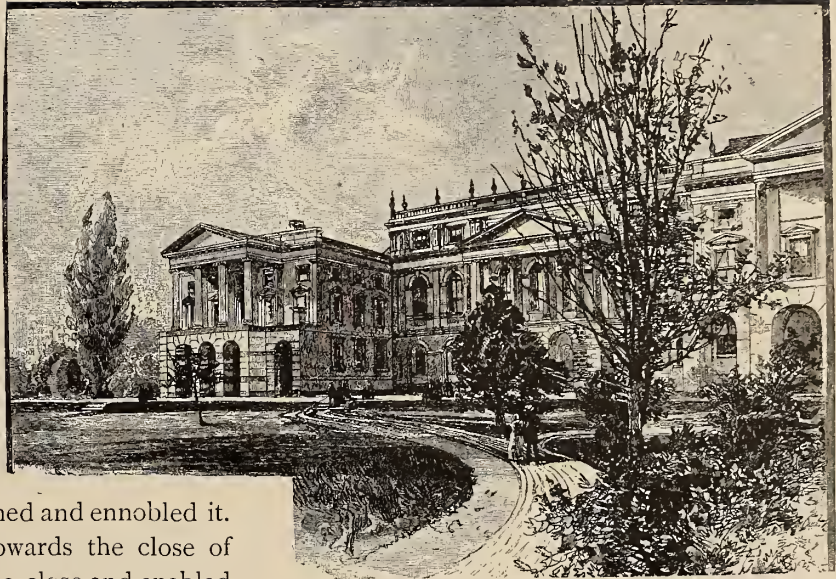
hold the fort. The fuse was lit, it is said undesignedly, at the crisis of the attack, and calamitous indeed was the result. Despite the fell check, the Americans advanced upon the town, much of which was incontinently sacked and given to the flames. To complete the humiliation of York, the Houses of Parliament were burned, together with the library and the public records, while everything of value that could be removed was put on board the fleet.

but the joy with which this success was hailed was ere long turned to sorrow at the death of the young nation's hero on Queenston Heights.

With Brock, there fell many a loyal citizen of York and gallant yeoman of the Province, and their death brought mourning into numberless bereaved homes. But York itself was now to suffer from a closer contact with the enemy. In the spring of the following year, the Americans fitted out some ships of war to harass the brave little colony on the waters of Ontario. About the end of April, the white-winged menace made its descent upon the capital, Dearborn's troops effecting a landing near the Humber River, under cover of a hot fire from the fleet. The attacking column, which was led by Brigadier Pike, marched at once upon Fort Toronto; but though its defences were weak and the Canadian militia in numbers a mere handful, the invaders received, as it seems by accident, a horribly sharp and unexpected welcome. Thinking to take the fort easily by *coup de main*, Pike pushed on his assaulting column until it had gained the out-works, when, suddenly, there was a terrific explosion and the American Brigadier, with 200 of his command, were unceremoniously shot into the air. The powder magazine, so tradition has it, had been fired by an artillery sergeant of the retreating defence, no longer able to

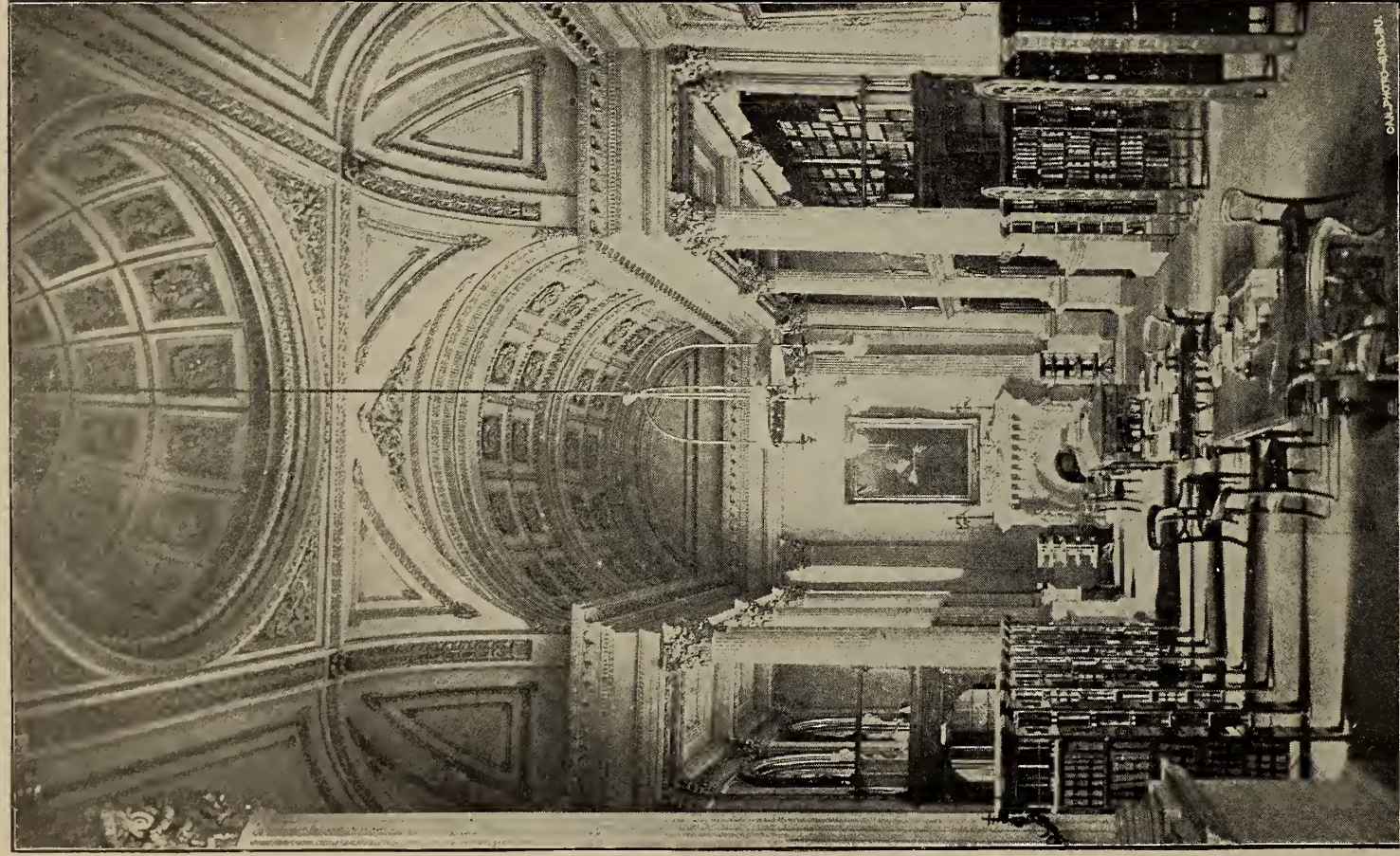
Three months later, the ill-starred capital had to submit to a further scorching and looting at the hands of the Americans, to avenge the aid given by the York militia to the British commander in his defence of Burlington Heights. For this second act of wantonness the invaders had to pay smartly, in losses elsewhere, and in grim reprisals in the later history of the conflict. For a while, fortune was capricious, now favouring the one side, anon the other. But the war closed with well-won honours for the brave little colony. The successes at Chateaugay, Chrysler's Farm and Lundy's Lane more than off-set any loss its arms sustained, while they carried to the credit of the national life that which has since strengthened and ennobled it.

The Treaty of Ghent, which was signed towards the close of the year 1814, brought the protracted struggle to a close and enabled the colony to resume its peaceful pursuits. The cessation, just then, of hostilities in Europe was also helpful to Canada, as it set free several British regiments for service here, not a few of whose officers and men were ere long given their discharge, with liberal grants of land, on which they settled and in time reared large families. The province in this way made considerable accessions to the population, and of a class that has been a very sturdy and useful element in the country. For a time, however, the city and the province suffered severely from the paralyzing effects of the war. The town of York was specially a sufferer, though it owed no little to a characteristic representative of the church militant, who had lately come to the city, in mitigating the hardships and



OSGOODE HALL.

Specially engraved for "Illustrated Toronto."



LAW SOCIETY LIBRARY, OSGOODE HALL.

alleviating the distress of the time. This was the Rev. John Strachan, Archdeacon of York, and afterwards the first Bishop of Toronto, who, with rare zeal and self-sacrificing devotion, organized a "Loyal and Patriotic Society" for the succour of those wounded in the war and the relief of the widows and orphans. Very beneficent was the work accomplished by this society, thanks to the patriotic ardour and resourceful energies of the then youthful ecclesiastic, who, later on, was to figure largely in the annals of the city and the province.

With the return of peace, York set itself the task of laying anew the foundations of its material advancement. Immigration set in, and increase of numbers not only gave a fresh impulse to the city, but led to the further development of the province. Attention was also directed to improving the facilities of communication by land and by water, while the period is to be credited with the organization of steam transit on the lakes. Provision for education was also made about this time, with other extensions of the



UPPER CANADA COLLEGE.

intellectual and social life of the community. As the result of this activity, a new day dawned upon York and the young colony.

Into the Colonial Paradise there soon crept, unhappily, the Satan of political dissension. An autocratic administrative system, in time, gave birth to evils sure to be resisted in a community of freemen—official favouritism and the rule of a Junto, which came to be known as the “Family Compact.” Against these sinister elements in the State, Reform rose to do battle, and for years there hung over the colony the lurid clouds of party strife. The history of this period is too well known to require portrayal here. All we need do is to record the issues of the conflict in Rebellion, and its menace to the life and progress of the long perturbed capital. In these contentions of the time the dispassionate reader will, of course, recognize that there were two sides to the quarrel. If privilege arrogated to itself power and the patronage which power loves, this, under the circumstances, was not to be wondered at. Nor was privilege just then, when Republican sentiments were dangerously prevalent, without its virtues, not only in staunch loyalty to the Crown, but in its respect for British institutions. On the other hand, it was in office, and not always scrupulous of how it conducted itself in office. With long monopoly of power there had crept in abuses and an idea of vested rights and prerogative alien to the public good. The other side fought valiantly and with equal patriotism for its own hand. Its chief clamour was to make the administration responsible to the representatives of the people. The Tory party saw not contumacy alone, but treason, in the cry. But on this line the battle was fought, and, in time, the popular liberties gained the day and what is now known as “Responsible Government” was yielded by the Crown.

Before these gains were won the patriot-spirits of the new era had to resort to rebellion. Brief must be our narrative of the incidents of the seditious “rising.” Of the martyrs for reform, the chief was Wm. Lyon Mackenzie. When Toronto was incorporated, in 1834, Mackenzie was its first Mayor. For ten years previously he had in his journal led the vanguard of political agitation, espousing the sacred cause of the people. Becoming their idol, he was returned to Parliament, and there, with his Radical allies, he gave voice to the popular discontent, seeking constitutional remedies for the evils of government. Baulked in this, Mackenzie resorted to incendiary measures to gain his purpose, and forthwith plotted rebellion. Allying himself with the leaders in a similar revolt in the Lower Province,

Mackenzie sought to overturn constitutional rule, such as it was, and erect a republic. Early in December, 1837, an insurgent force gathered to the north of Toronto and for some days menaced the capital. Had the town been at once marched upon, it must have fallen into the hands of the rebels. Luckily the attack was averted by procrastination, which gave time for the defence of the town, by the resort to it of a body of loyal militia. The latter met the insurgents, but only to see them run. The end was a fiasco, though "the rising" was not without its measure of redress, in the political amelioration which it brought in its train. This came with the Union of the Provinces, and with the ultimate gain of Responsible Government. "The rising," it should be borne in mind, was not against the Crown, but against the Crown's representatives, and colonial misgovernment.



NEW MUNICIPAL AND COUNTY BUILDINGS.

FROM THE REBELLION TO CONFEDERATION.

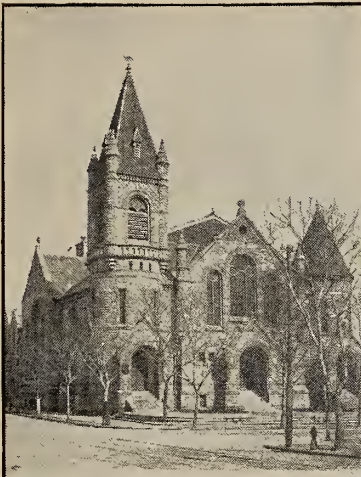
After the events just narrated, Toronto hastened to purge itself of the taint of treason. For a time outlawry, imprisonment, and social ostracism kept disloyalty at a discount, aided by the grim constraints of a couple of hangings.



COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS.

But Reform had not failed to get in its work, and this showed itself presently in the coming of Lord Durham and the presentation to the Imperial authorities of his elaborate Report. Acting upon this, the experiment was made of uniting the two Canadas, having a Legislative Council and Assembly in common, with equal representation in both branches, and an Executive Council, which should hold office only so long as it commanded the support of a majority in the popular Chamber. Thus was gained what Reform had long contended for—government by the people, the essential principle of responsible political rule. This, however, was not gained immediately, for it took time for the Mother Country, ill-prepared as yet for the change, to reconcile itself to parting with the Royal prerogative; while several Governors were to come and go ere the Crown could look with complacency upon the surrender of its patronage, including appointment to office. There were also difficulties within the colony, the result of racial jealousy and the strife of faction, which stayed the full coming of Responsible Government. Time, however, brought the boon at last, and political freedom gave rein to the activities of industrial and commercial development. From these, Toronto profited, and particularly from the enterprises

SHERBOURNE ST. METHODIST CHURCH.
 BOND ST. CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.
 OLD ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH.



JARVIS ST. BAPTIST CHURCH.
 ST. ANDREW'S (PRES.) CHURCH.
 METROPOLITAN (METH.) CHURCH.



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Specially engraved for]

KING STREET WEST.

[“Illustrated Toronto.”

of the railway era, with the contemporary stimulus of Reciprocity with the United States. Later still, came the impetus which the city and Province received, in the outbreak of Civil War in the neighbouring Republic, as well as in the previous opening of the ports of the Mother Country to the untaxed products of colonial trade. On the other side of the account has to be placed the loss occasioned by the Fenian Raids, and the retarding influences of racial and political strife. Increasing differences in the Legislature of the United Canadas made government impossible; and when the parties came to a deadlock, they cast about them for a remedy, in a larger and wider measure of political union. This, in the year 1867, was realized, in the ampler national status of Confederation.

TORONTO IN THE LAST QUARTER OF A CENTURY.

With the 1st of July, 1867, a new era of union began for the older Provinces included in the British possessions of North America. At that date a federation took place, embracing, at first, the two Canadas and the Provinces of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. These united to form what is now known as the Dominion of Canada—a federation under a general government, with a subordinate Legislature in each Province, having jurisdiction over its own local affairs. The Confederation has since been extended by the admission of Prince Edward Island on the east, and British Columbia on the west, and the entry into the dominion of the Prairie Province of Manitoba, and the lately organized Territories of the North-West. With this political compact, and the building of the great highway of the Canadian Pacific Railway, the links in the chain of dominion are now complete from sea to sea. Ottawa has become the seat of the Federal Government; and, in what is now Ontario, Toronto has retained the honour which is her due, of being made the capital of the Premier Province.

As the metropolis of Ontario, Toronto has a high and unchallenged share in the present and future of the Dominion. From her loins have gone forth not a little of the brain and muscle which have entered into it and contributed to its stability and greatness. Its central position, and the enterprise and activities of its inhabitants, have won for it a high place among the progressive cities of the continent. Not only is the rich and far-spreading



KING STREET, LOOKING EAST, SOUTH SIDE.

region of the Province tributary to it, but not a little also of the great North-West. It has become a vast commercial emporium, a great railway centre, the literary 'hub' of the Dominion, the Mecca of tourists, an Episcopal and Archiepiscopal see and the ecclesiastical headquarters of many denominations, and the seat of the law courts and the Provincial Legislature. Within the last quarter of a century no city in the New World has relatively made greater strides; and on every hand are seen the indications of a still more rapid and phenomenal growth. Nor are its intellectual and social progress behind its material progress. Very gratifying are the statistics of its array of churches, schools, colleges and places of interesting or instructive resort; and not less gratifying are the city's attractions as a place of residence. The charm of Toronto in this latter respect is great.

Its metropolitan eminence may be judged by what the city has attained within the brief period since Confederation. In 1867 the population was under 50,000, and the realty 20 millions; to-day the population exceeds 200,000,

while the realty is mounting up to 150 millions ! The imports of the city within the period show a like marvellous advance. In 1867 the amount was a trifle over seven millions ; in 1891 they approach twenty-one millions ! The strides in population, in imports, and in the value of ratable property are matched by Toronto's growth in other directions, particularly in the vast development of its financial resources, which are now estimated at over a hundred and fifty millions ! The activities and achievements of the past are happy augurs of the activities and achievements of the future. From what Toronto is we may judge what Toronto will yet become. What it *has* been, it is not a little curious now to look back upon, for giant have been the strides in the city's development. As we near the hundredth anniversary of the founding of Toronto, the historic memory will regard with a keen interest the embryo capital of the Simcoe régime. To trace the windings of the road traversed in these hundred years is to trace the annals of a stream of life rich in every element that makes for the well-being of a nation. When one thinks of



what the city has become, it seems marvellous that its cradling-time was but a century ago. Then, the world of Upper Canada centered merely at two pin-points on Lake Ontario—Kingston and Niagara—and, when Toronto was founded, rude was the political and social life which revolved round these primitive towns. Later on, the area of that little world was enlarged by another landing on the wooded shores of the lake, which was destined to expand from a mere foothold to the space now covered by a great metropolitan city, with a Province behind it, Imperial in its bounds. Remote, judged by the achievement, seems that natal time ; yet, compared with the life of nations in the Old World, it is but yesterday. Communities on this continent live fast ; but if all the human life has passed away that had its birth-time when Simcoe's salute was fired in the harbour at the christening of the city, interest in the event remains, and must increase as the passing years add to its import and significance.

TORONTO, TOPOGRAPHICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE.

The attractions of Toronto are great as a place of residence. It has not the striking, picturesque features of the old historic cities of Canada, such as Quebec, Montreal, or even Halifax ; but, in its water-front, at least, it possesses much natural beauty, while the city proper is not lacking in artistic adornment. The approach by steamer on the lake is singularly fine, as is the view of the city from the Island, with the colour and movement of the myriad craft that ply between. When the visitor passes from the wharves into the traffic of the streets, with the imposing array of substantial warehouses and elegant public buildings, the impression gained is that of a wealthy metropolitan city, full of enterprise and activity. The impression is heightened if one's peregrinations enable one to take in the widespread area of Toronto, including the chief residential quarters, with their many fine examples of comfortable and artistic homes, and their varied architectural beauty. To the stranger, not less interesting will be the study of the institutions of the Provincial Capital, with even a passing glance at its industries and commerce. The human types of the city will also be material for observation and reflection, as they recall the parent stock in the British Isles, whence, for the most part, have come the builders of the young commonwealth. And not only will their physical aspects and physiognomical traits remind

the observer of the racial origin of the people, but their English speech and other old country characteristics, with many of the manners and customs which appertain to the Old Land. Still further will the visitor be impressed with the British aspect of the place when his eye lights on the nomenclature of the streets and the historic designation of not a few of the city's places of public resort, its educational, eleemosynary, and other institutions.

Toronto, it will be seen, lies on a flat plain, with a rising inclination to the northward. It covers an area of about sixteen square miles, intersected by over three hundred miles of streets. The streets, like those in the modern cities at least of the New World, cross each other, almost without deviation, at right angles. Most of them are now closely built upon, well paved for the most part, though they might be cleaner than they are; and the principal thoroughfares are brilliant with electric lights. On the chief thoroughfares the tram-cars ply in all directions; and soon the city is to have the convenience of a Belt-line railway, encompassing the town and giving access to its many attractive suburbs. The residential part lies chiefly to the north and west of the business section, and is graced by numberless handsome villas and rows of detached or semi-detached houses, with occasional fine lawns, and boulevards set off with maples, chestnuts, and other ornamental shade trees. In the business portion there is a want of an open square or park, as a central rallying-place, from which



CANADIAN BANK OF COMMERCE.



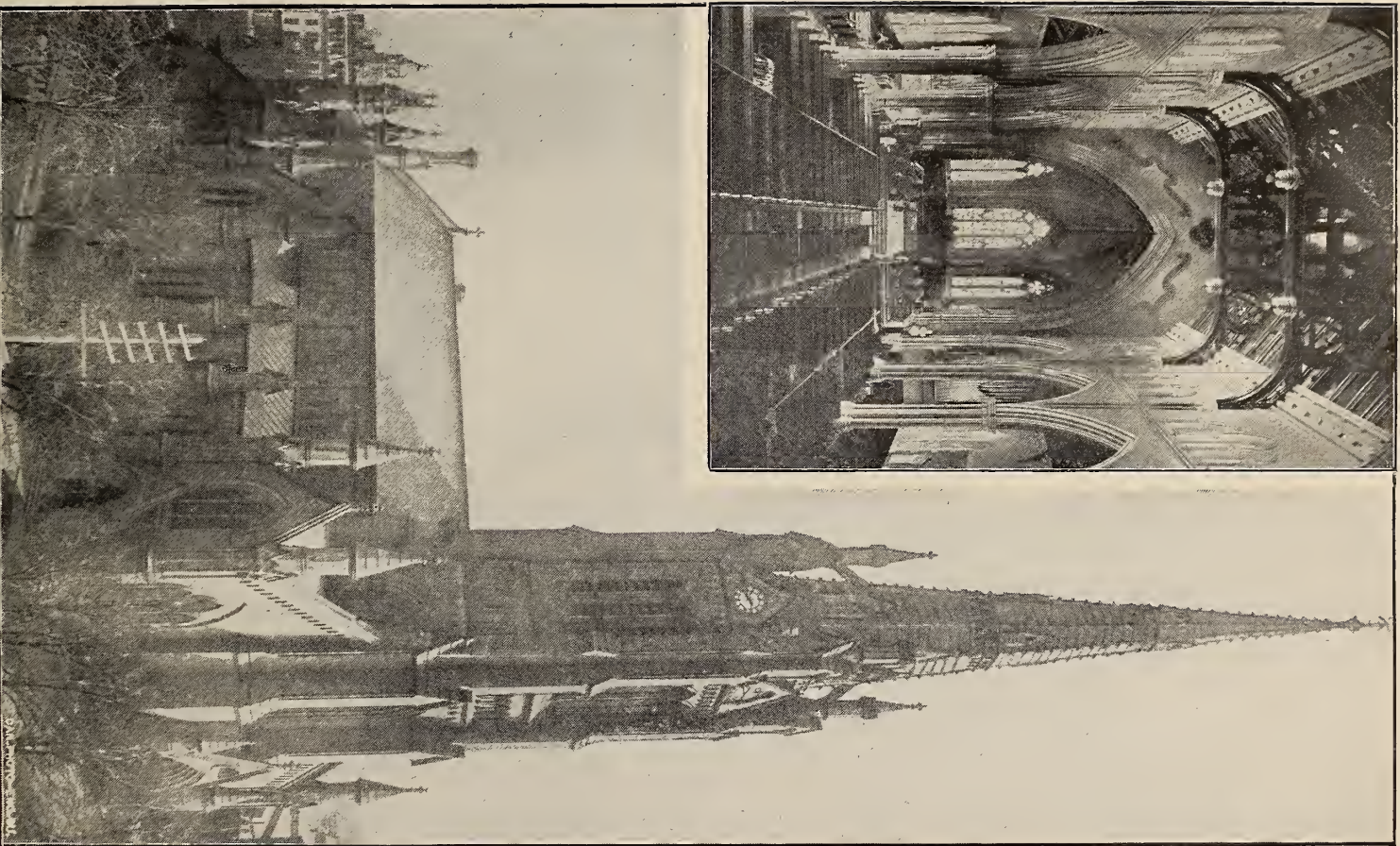
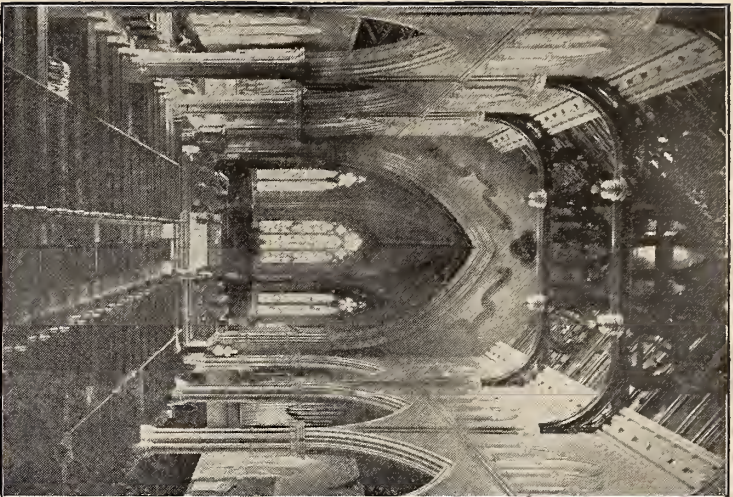
CUSTOM HOUSE.

the street fronts, is happily giving place to more substantial and artistic qualities; while colour, especially in stonework, is being noticeably introduced, and with a bright and pleasing effect. There is also the avoidance of weary and commonplace repetition, and, in its place, much originality and harmony of design. Especially is this to be noted in the more recent examples of domestic architecture, which betoken a more educated taste, as well as a higher ideal in the comfort and luxury of living.

the visitor can have a wide view of the city, or feel, at least, that he is in the heart of it. Most cities across the Line have such an open space, where the stranger can leisurely take his bearings and know his whereabouts, should he wander off to explore the town and return to the rendezvous; but Toronto is lacking, as yet, in this particular. As the city grows westward and northward, the want may be supplied; in the west, perhaps, by appropriating the site of the present Government House, or by acquiring the block on which Upper Canada College now stands; in the north, possibly, by expropriating the area round the new Municipal and County buildings, now in course of erection. The need of such a rallying-place is, we venture to think, unquestioned.

If Toronto has little natural beauty, it is making good the deficiency in its architectural beauty and in the development of an æsthetic taste among the inhabitants. This finds expression not only in its many handsome churches, artistic public buildings, imposing offices and mammoth warehouses, but in the increasing interest taken in civic adornment and in the demand for public drives, parks and gardens. Sham, in the shape of flimsy ornamentation on

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ST. JAMES' CATHEDRAL AND INTERIOR.

THE CITY OF TO-DAY, AND HOW TO SEE IT.

Until our modern age can devise balloon excursions, and render them safe and controllable modes of ascent and descent, it will be difficult for the visitor to take in Toronto at a glance. There are no natural eminences to enable one to see the city from a height, if we except the northern ridge, on which the new Upper Canada College is now located; and the view from that point, if the day be clear, is not without interest. There are architectural elevations, it is true, at various points; but, perhaps, none of them present so pretty a picture of the town as may be seen from the Island, with the gleaming foreground of the harbour and its animated summer traffic. To the visitor who seeks details and a closer view, there is nothing for it but a carriage drive (the fare is a dollar an hour); and, accepting this, we would recommend the sight-seeing being done in a couple of tours, starting, say, from the intersection of Yonge and Front Streets—one embracing all the sights of the east and north, the other all that is interesting to the west and north. Presuming that the visitor takes our counsel, the following brief itinerary may prove not without service.

OBJECTS AND PLACES OF INTEREST.

At the starting point indicated—the intersection of Yonge and Front Streets—commerce marks its dominion over the region by the erection of three edifices of remarkable architectural beauty. These are the Custom House, the Toronto branch of the Bank of Montreal, and the new home of the Board of Trade. The Custom House is a building in the style of the Italian Renaissance, and is one of the best examples of the new architectural era in Toronto. The carving and other adornment on the building reveal exceptional art taste; quite artistic, also, is the interior “Long Room,” where the business of the port is for the most part transacted. The business done within its walls rates the city the second port of entry in the Dominion; the annual value of the imports now exceeds twenty millions. Not only the exterior, but the interior, beauty of the building lately erected for the Bank of Montreal win commendation from the visitor. Its architectural style is that of the French Renaissance. The carved stone work, on

the columns, pediment and balustrade, is especially fine, and fine, also, is the embellishment of the interior. The handsome pile, now completed, for the Board of Trade rather dwarfs the rich banking-house opposite, though it well represents the more imposing style of building which the modern era has introduced. The building stands a stalwart warder at the portals of the city's commerce. Proceeding northward by the main artery of Yonge Street, we come to the intersection of Wellington Street, and to a region under the rule of the financial and commercial corporations. From this point, in addition to the great wholesale warehouses, ten of the banking institutions of the city may be counted. These are the Bank of Montreal, the Bank of British North America, the Bank of Toronto, the Imperial, Ontario, Merchants, Union, Standard, Traders, and Dominion Banks. In the vicinity, also, are the offices of the Canadian Express Co., and, surrounded by congeries of wires, those of the Great North-Western and the Canadian Pacific Telegraph Companies. A few steps onward, we pass the new home of the *Globe*, the chief organ of Canadian Liberalism, and arrive at the most thronged thoroughfare in the city, the junction of King and Yonge, at the south-west corner of which stands the Dominion Bank. Here the dense traffic and throng of tram-cars and other vehicles will apprise the visitor that he has reached the city's most central point. On King Street, he will doubtless be tempted to turn aside to have a



BROADWAY TABERNACLE.



BANK OF MONTREAL AND BOARD OF TRADE.

offices attract crowds to this and the adjoining thoroughfares. In the vicinity are the County Court buildings, soon to come, with the Municipal offices, under a worthier roof, the Magistrate's Court, and the headquarters of the Police

look into the shops or shop-windows, or, from his wheeled vantage-ground, stop to make a mental note of the hurrying crowd of passers-by, of both sexes. Interesting will he find the survey of the thoroughfare, with its stream of life and all but congested traffic, particularly if it be afternoon, when fashion has its dress and shopping parade, and Toronto "gigmanity"—to borrow Carlyle's phrase—goes forth for an airing.

Turning eastward on King, we reach Toronto Street, at the head of which is the General Post Office. The location of the latter, and the central position of the street, have drawn to it and the immediate neighbourhood a number of building and loan societies, land and insurance companies, and other monetary, legal and business corporations, whose



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BANK OF MONTREAL.

[“ Illustrated Toronto.”

Department and the Fire Brigade. In Toronto Street is the Receiver-General's Office, and, alongside, are the Masonic Buildings, the chief rendezvous of the Masonic order. Regaining King Street, and still proceeding eastward, we reach St. James's (Anglican) Cathedral. This historic edifice, with its grand

tower and lofty spire, stands in a fine sylvan enclosure, happily preserved from the intrusion of commerce. The building is in the Gothic style, of the Early English period, and is built of white brick, dressed with Ohio stone. It is the third edifice reared on the spot, its humbler predecessors having succumbed to the flames in the early years of the city. Its interior has lately been remodelled, and a cluster of memories garland the place. Under the chancel sleep, after a long and active life, the first Bishop of Toronto, and one dear to early Anglicanism in Toronto, the revered Dean Grasett.

To the east of St. James's is the city's cradling-place, of interest, in the main, only to the antiquary, since Toronto in the march of years has followed the customary law and grown westward. Here still may be seen the old market-place, and streets whose names speak of loyalty to the Hanoverian dynasty, when it was more the fashion that it is now to perpetuate its memories in the New World by paying it civic honour. In the neighbourhood, though preparing for their hegira westward, are the old-time City Hall and Corporation buildings, and the drill shed and armoury of the volunteer organizations. Beyond the classic Don is fast rising an attractive extension of the city, overleaping its long-time eastern boundary and making



BOARD OF TRADE BUILDING.

rapid transformations in the area annexed. On Church Street, immediately to the north of the Cathedral, is the Public

Library, which the visitor will find well worth a visit. It is maintained by an annual municipal tax, exceeding \$30,000, some portion of which is devoted to the support of branches in other sections of the city. There is an ample and well-furnished reading-room, an extensive lending library and a comprehensive reference department, all of which are under able and intelligent administration. In the spacious square, to the north of the Public Library, stands the Metropolitan (Methodist) Church, one of the largest ecclesiastical edifices in the Dominion, and a special adornment of the city. It owes its existence to the zeal of the late Dr. Morley Punshon, who did much for Methodism in Canada when he made Toronto for a time his home. The visitor will do well to take a look at the spacious interior. Attractive, also, is the adjoining mother-church of Roman Catholicism in Toronto—St. Michael's Cathedral,—which, when the city was young, was erected in what was then "the bush." How far Toronto has since spread to the northward, the visitor, if he continues his drive, will see for himself.

THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, AND THE SCHOOL SYSTEM.

A couple of blocks to the northward, another spacious square will be met with, in which are situate the headquarters of the Educational system of the Province, with their annex, the Normal School, for the professional training of teachers. In the grounds, a monument has lately been erected to the memory of the Rev. Dr. Ryerson, founder of the system, and for nearly forty years its active administrator. The present head of the department is styled Minister of Education. He is a member of the Provincial Government, with a seat in the Legislature. To him is entrusted the management of the whole educational affairs of the Province ; and he is responsible for the apportionment of the Legislative grant, for the efficient maintenance and inspection of the primary and secondary schools, for the regulation of studies and text-books, and for carrying out all the requirements of the School Law. The cost of the system is borne partly by the municipalities, or school sections, under the supervision of school boards, and partly by the Local Government. The higher education of the community is provided for by denominational colleges, and by the University of Toronto, a national institution, supported in the main by land endowments originally granted by the Crown. The visitor to



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NEW PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS.

[“Illustrated Toronto.”

the Education Department will find, in the art gallery and museum attached, a collection of pictures and statuary, copies of the old masters and other notable paintings, with models of Assyrian and Egyptian sculpture, and the busts of many well-known historical personages. If the collection seems rather heterogeneous, and somewhat wanting in true art-taste, it will, perhaps, be borne in mind that it was gathered at an early and immature era in the Provincial annals.

In connection with the subject of Provincial education, it will not be amiss to direct attention to the Toronto Public School system, which is vested in a School Board, representing the various city wards, and maintained, chiefly, by taxes levied on the ratepayers. Within the municipality there are now fifty schools in operation, all of them well equipped and under an efficient administration. The annual cost of maintenance is in the neighbourhood of \$300,000; and, usually, there is an appropriation of as much more for new school buildings, sites and equipment. The Executive Offices of the Board are on York Street, at the corner of Richmond.

To the north of the Education Office grounds are St. James' Square Presbyterian Church and the College of Pharmacy; to the south of them Bond Street Congregational Church; and to the west, on Yonge Street, the new and commodious home of the Young Men's Christian Association. To the east, on Jarvis street, the finest residential avenue in the city, are the Jarvis Street Baptist Church, a notable structure architecturally, and the Toronto Collegiate Institute, the oldest and highest in rank of the secondary schools of the Province. Just east of the Institute is one of the city's most attractive resorts—the Horticultural Gardens—a shrine dedicated alike to Flora, Euterpe and Terpsichore. The grounds are laid out with taste, and with an artistic eye for floral adornment. The Pavilion is



UNION STATION.

effectively designed either for summer concerts or winter assemblies. It is occasionally used, also, for lectures and public banquets, as well as for floral shows and other displays and gatherings of the people.

The drive northward may be taken either by Jarvis or by Sherbourne Streets as far as Bloor Street and the picturesque ravine of Rosedale. The ravine is crossed by two fine bridges, which lead to a pretty suburb of the city,



CHURCH OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES.

and to a pleasant drive winding about the Reservoir and the valley of the Don. In the neighbourhood are three metropolitan cemeteries, two of them perched on the wooded banks of the stream, and all three quiet and picturesque resting-places of the city's dead. The drive may be continued as far as Deer Park, a rapidly extending outpost of the capital, and to the site of the now completed new Upper Canada College. Here the visitor will be well repaid by a ramble over the building and the spacious playgrounds which surround it, and by a view of Toronto and the gleaming lake beyond from the summit of the tower. The return to town, by Avenue Road, will bring the visitor to the Bloor Street en-

trance to the Queen's Park, to the noble University and its adjuncts, and the grand pile of the new Parliament Buildings, which the sylvan resort encloses. The Park forms a portion of the endowment of the University of Toronto. Before entering it, the eye will doubtless be taken by the appearance of a rather striking and unique building located on the northern front of the University grounds. This is McMaster Hall, the denominational College of the Baptist body. The college is the princely gift of the donor whose name it bears. In addition to its theological department, it has now an Arts faculty, and all the machinery for the equipment of the youth who resort to it. Within the Park, also, is the new home of Wycliffe College, the theological training institution of the Evangelical section of the Anglican communion. Both colleges are affiliated with Toronto University, as is also St. Michael's (R. C.) College, situated on the eastern flank of the Park.



THE HOSPITAL.

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO.

Some little time ago an English traveller observed that the "University of Toronto was, perhaps, the only piece of collegiate architecture on the American continent worthy of standing-room in the streets of Oxford." In its architectural features it belongs essentially to the Old World. The buildings are the special glory of the city; the style is Norman, the proportions being noble, and the harmony of the whole exquisite. There is a richly-sculptured doorway at the main entrance, under a massive tower. Much of the grand pile fell, a year or more ago, a prey to the flames; but the calamity evoked so keen and universal a regret that the money required for its restoration was speedily subscribed, and the building is now restored, and that on an ampler basis. Funds for the erection and equipment of a new library have also been raised, while there have been large and generous contributions in books. On the south of the spacious lawn are situated a group of buildings auxiliary to the University, including the Biological Institute, the School of Practical Science, the Park Hospital, and the fine auditorium of the University Y. M. C. Association. Presently we shall see arise on the eastern side of the Park the new buildings designed for the uses of Victoria (Methodist) College.

THE NEW PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS, AND ST. ALBAN'S CATHEDRAL.

In the Queen's Park the new Parliament Buildings seriously encroach on the already limited recreation grounds of the people. The vast pile is now taking, however, so imposing a form that the intrusion is somewhat atoned for. When completed, the local Westminster will be nobly housed. Close by will be observed a fine bronze statue of the late Hon. George Brown, an eminent Canadian journalist and statesman, also a monument erected to the memory of the volunteers of the city who were killed at Ridgeway in June, 1866, in repelling Fenian invasion. West of the Park, looking lakeward, on Spadina Avenue, is Knox College, the theological hall of the Presbyterian Church. In the vicinity are a number of handsome churches, called into existence by the extension north-westward of the town. These are situate, in the main, on Bloor Street, College Street, and Spadina Avenue. Commerce here, also, is rapidly making a

home for itself. The growth of the city in this direction has of recent years been phenomenal. So rapid have been the strides that a new Anglican Cathedral (St. Alban's) has been partially erected, with the view of providing for the spiritual wants of the neighbourhood, and of giving Toronto a Cathedral Church under the fostering care of the Bishop of the Diocese. Service is held in the portion of the Cathedral which is, so far, completed.



VOLUNTEERS' MONUMENT, QUEEN'S PARK.

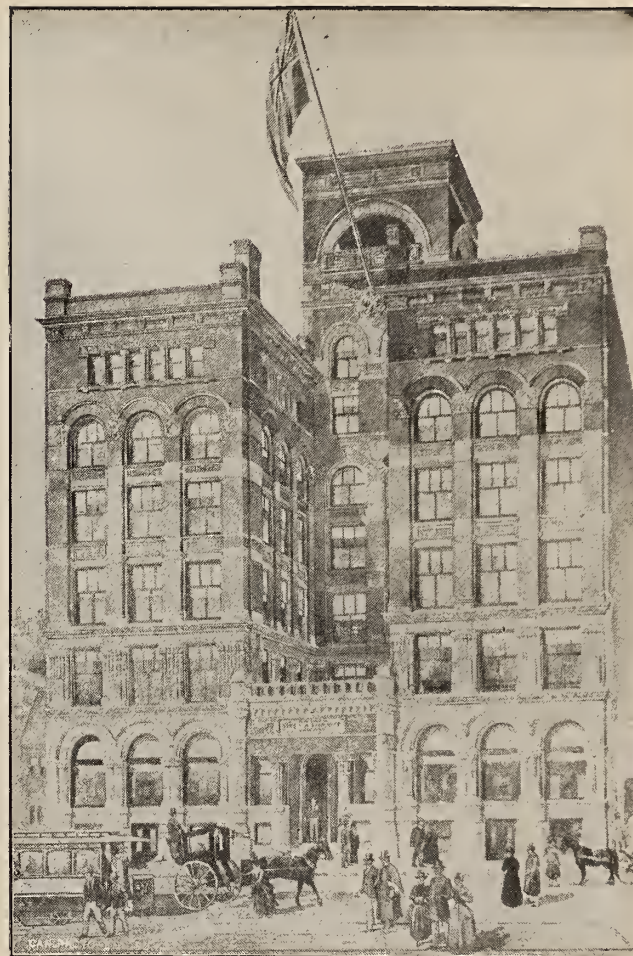
OSGOODE HALL, AND THE NEW CITY AND COUNTY BUILDINGS.



CONFEDERATION LIFE ASSOCIATION BUILDING.

The return to our starting-point, in the business portion of the city, may be made either by the spacious Spadina Avenue, or, along College Street, thence by the throng of Yonge Street. It may be more convenient, however, to take a route midway between the two, and reach Queen Street by College Avenue, finely flanked, as it is, by an unbroken line of chestnuts. By this route the sight-seer will be enabled to visit Osgoode Hall, the seat of the Law Courts, and one of the chief show-places of the city. But, before leaving College Street, the visitor's attention may be called to a goodly philanthropic enterprise, which should command the sympathy, as well as the support, of everyone in whose breast resides even the flickerings of humane feeling. We refer to

the Victoria Hospital for the care of Sick Children. A visit to the Hospital, with an interested inquiry into the beneficent work it is doing, will bring its own reward. On College Street, also, on a portion of the grounds of Sleepy Hollow, is soon to be erected the home of the new Toronto Athletic Club, an organization composed mainly of young bankers, devoted to athleticism and sport. Osgoode Hall—which takes its name from the first Chief Justice of Upper Canada—is situated on Queen Street, at the head of York, and stands in some six acres of ornamental grounds. Here the Law Society of the Province has its home, and here sit the Judges of the Superior Courts, while their portraits, and those of their distinguished predecessors, look down upon the visitor from the walls of the Library, Convocation Hall, and grand staircase with becoming gravity and inherent dignity. In this high court of Themis, the sight-seer will be stolid, indeed, if he goes forth from it without sensibly feeling the influence of art and the majesty of law. Proceeding eastward, on Queen, we reach the site, at the head of Bay Street, of the new Municipal and County Buildings, now in course of erection. Here, in the coming time, we are fain to believe, Toronto is to reach the ideal of municipal government. Whether that is to come by putting our civic affairs into commission, or as the result of an improved working of our elective institutions, we are not careful to say; all that concerns us is that the ideal state shall come, and



CANADA LIFE ASSURANCE BUILDING.

come quickly. In hastening the beneficent era, the influences of a new environment are likely to be helpful. Imposing, certainly, is to be the future City Hall and Court House, not the least striking feature of which will be the massive and lofty clock tower. The structure, as a whole, will be a great ornament to the city ; its architectural design is modern Romanesque. From the head of Bay Street may be seen the palatial home of the Council of the College of Physicians and Surgeons ; and on Queen Street, near the corner of Yonge, stands Knox Church, one of the oldest landmarks, and long the nursery of Presbyterianism in the city. On Yonge Street, as we turn down towards the lake, the handsome pile will be observed erected for the uses of the Confederation Life Association. Just below is the Yonge Street Arcade, and on Adelaide Street West are two of the city's theatres—"The Grand," and the "Toronto Opera House." Eastward, on the same alignment, are the new quarters of the Reform Club. A few steps southward brings us once more to the business heart of the city.

KING STREET WEST, AND OCCIDENTAL TORONTO.

We begin our second tour of Toronto with the fine vista before us of King Street West, the lofty buildings in the near foreground being sharply silhouetted against the gleaming warmth of the afternoon sky. The architectural outlook from this point is one of the finest in the city. On the left, the chief objects that meet the eye are the Dominion Bank, the new and handsome quarters of the Canadian Bank of Commerce, and, at the corner of Bay Street, the office of the *Telegram* newspaper. On the right are the North of Scotland Chambers, Manning Arcade, the magnificent pile erected for the Canada Life Association, and the imposing offices and skyward tower of THE MAIL Printing Co. Within view, also, are the continuous line of handsome stores, chiefly, however, on the south side, and on the north side are Molson's Bank and the Bank of Hamilton. Close by, on Bay Street, is the National Club ; and, south of it, are a number of remarkably fine wholesale stores and manufacturing establishments. The visitor, as he passes westward on King, will be apt, we think, to turn his glance backward on three, at least, of the buildings he has passed

within a block's space. These are "The Commerce" banking house, THE MAIL building, and the very handsome and adorning structure, the offices of the Canada Life Association. Passing the Romain Buildings, which, in their day, were architecturally notable, and the fine offices of the Canadian Pacific Railway, we reach York Street and Toronto's mammoth hostelry, the Rossin House. To the south are the Toronto Club, the Queen's Hotel, the resort of royalty and vice-royalty, the Walker House, another well-frequented hostelry, and the Union Station, the joint terminus of the great railway corporations.

OLD PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS, GOVERNMENT HOUSE, AND ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH.

On Front Street, close by the Union Station, have stood for more than a generation the Parliament Buildings, the architectural appearance of which has not been the pride of the citizen. As we have seen, a more worthy home is elsewhere being built to replace the humble St. Stephen's. Until that is erected, we fear what disaster decay may bring to the Legislative shrine of those Old World baubles, the throne and the mace! In the square to the northward art and nature appear to better advantage. Here is the residence of the Lieutenant-Governor. It is a



TORONTO CLUB.



BOND STREET, LOOKING NORTH FROM QUEEN.

comparatively modern structure on an old historic site, familiar in its day to many Upper Canadian Governors. Within Government House may be seen the portraits of not a few of those august personages, with their successors of a later era. The residence has a fine setting of lawn and terrace, and its interior is both spacious and handsome. Specially fine are the ball room, conservatory, grand hall and staircase.

At the opposite corner from Government House, Presbyterianism, of the Old Scotch Kirk type, rears a worthy fane, with a noble Minster front and a typical Norman tower, that takes one back in imagination

to the mother land, rich in its glorious monuments of our common faith. Were the sacred walls of St. Andrew's Church marked by the tooth of time and half-hidden by an encrusting mass of ivy, the type of a religious building familiar to Old Countrymen would be perfect. The edifice is built of Georgetown rubble, with Ohio stone facings, varied in the arches and bands by red-brown blocks from Queenston. The interior is in keeping with its elaborate



JARVIS STREET en Fête.

exterior. The church is fortunate in having as its present pastor one whose gifts as a preacher make it, perhaps, the most attractive worshipping-place in the city. Just east of St. Andrew's are the centrally situated and commodious rooms of the Toronto Art Gallery, and, adjoining the *Salon*, is the Academy of Music. West of Simcoe, on the north side of King Street, is the spacious square, endeared to most Canadian youths, as the long-time home of Upper Canada College. As antiquity goes in the New World, the College may be said to have a venerable foundation ; and, with the flavour of age, it keeps its early repute as the Canadian Eton, Rugby, or Harrow. Its future habitation, as we have seen, is the notable pile of buildings at Deer Park, now ready for occupancy.

TRINITY UNIVERSITY, THE NEW FORT, AND THE EXHIBITION GROUNDS.

Passing from the College grounds, we may proceed westward by King Street, with its new subway-approach to what was once Parkdale, and the Exhibition Grounds, and so on to the western limits of the city. If this route be chosen, the chief objects of interest *en passant* are the Central Prison, the Mercer Reformatory, and the Home for Incurables. Should it be the time of holding the annual fair, the Industrial Exhibition Grounds will present an unusual attraction to the visitor, for here gather for a fortnight every autumn from three to four hundred thousand people, to view the displays of Provincial and metropolitan manufacturers, the art exhibits, Canada's finest breeds of horses and cattle, and the bountiful array of her horticultural and agricultural products. Roomily situated, on Dominion Ordnance Lands, overlooking the lake, stands the New Fort, the barracks of "C" School of Infantry. The men attached to the School form a section of the skeleton army of the Dominion known as "regulars." The Old Fort, near by, which is historically identified with the beginnings of Toronto and the grim events of the War of 1812, has long since lost its active military character. On the old parade ground cattle crop the untrodden grass ; while the Russian cannon, which keep up the pretence of guarding the approach to the harbour, are mockingly encircled with the symbols of peace. From the embrasured clay parapet a fine view of the Island is to be had, with its far-spreading line of picturesque summer cottages, flanked on the east by the home of the Royal Canadian Yacht Club and the Wiman Baths.

Another route westward from Upper Canada College may be taken, by turning northward on John Street, and skirting the College cricket ground on the one side and "The Arlington" Hotel on the other, pass thence, by way of Queen Street, to High Park and the Humber. Should this route be followed, the visitor will get a glimpse, from John Street, of two of the city's historic homes, erected when time and Toronto were alike young. One of these is "Beverley House," the residence of the late Chief Justice Sir John Beverley Robinson; the other is "The Grange," a fine old manor-house, built by one of the early judges of Upper Canada, and now in the possession of a member, by marriage, of the family of its founder—the wife of Professor Goldwin Smith. In the beautifully-kept grounds, ample and well-trimmed lawns, with ancient elms looking down regally upon the scene, "The Grange" recalls a pleasant bit of Old England. Close to "The Grange" is St. George's (Anglican) Church, surmounted by a lofty spire and finial cross, finely burnished by the setting sun.



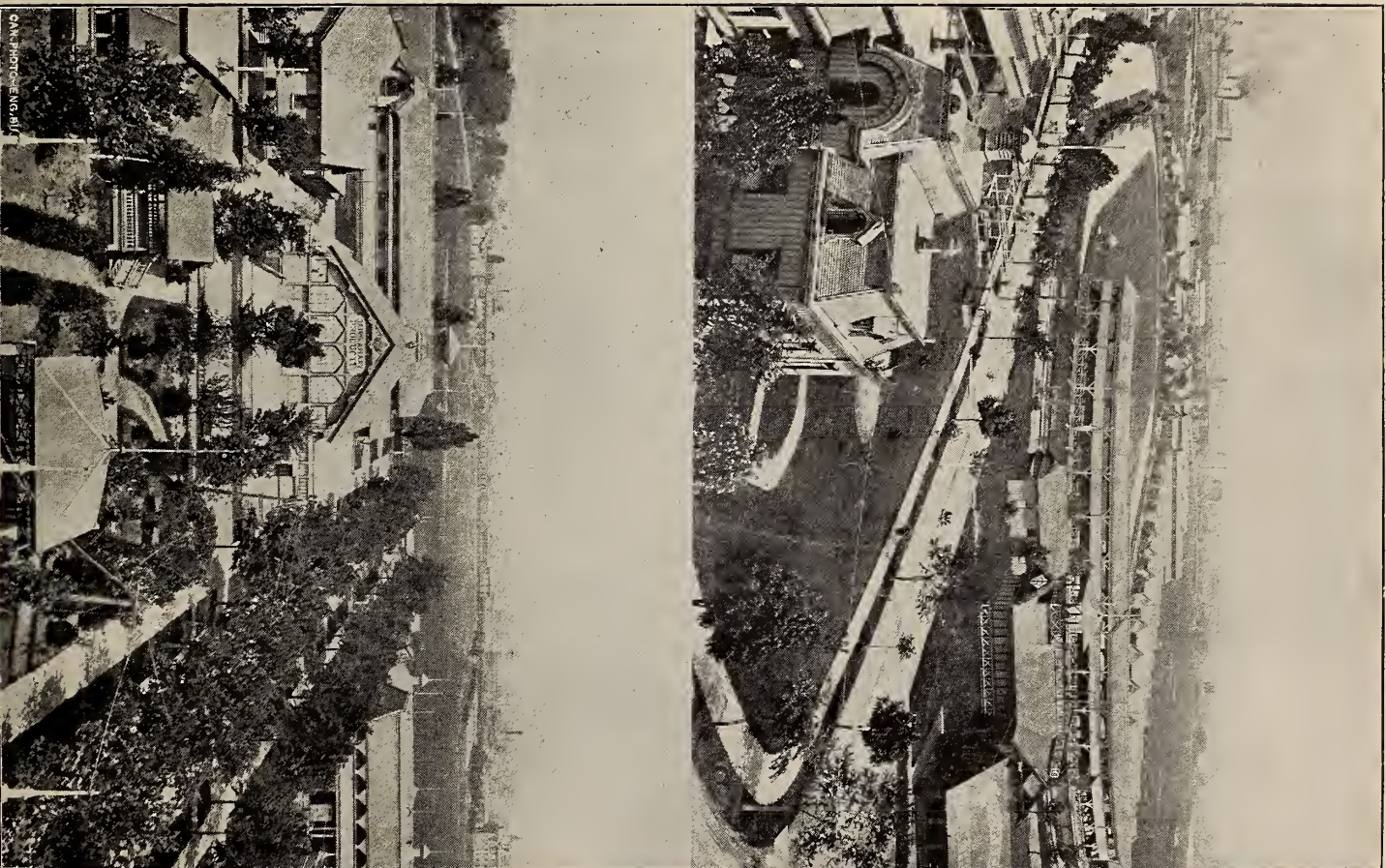
Our civic peregrinations will be completed by a drive westward on Queen, passing by the way the fine arteries of Spadina Avenue and Bathurst Street, and the pretty grounds that enclose the University of Trinity College, and so out of the city limits to the Lake shore, in the direction of Mimico. Before entering upon these new Torontos in the west, the visitor will be repaid by a visit to "Trinity." Trinity is a fine, ecclesiastical-looking edifice, and was founded



EXHIBITION, MAIN BUILDING.

in 1852 by the late Bishop Strachan as an Anglican College, when the Legislature abolished the chair of theology from the National University. The later additions to Trinity's academic equipment are a Convocation Hall, a beautiful College Chapel, and a new wing to the building, which largely extends the number of class rooms and the accommodation of the College residence. Just beyond the University, in a plot of land originally fifty acres in extent, stands the Provincial Lunatic Asylum, now about to be removed to Mimico, the site becoming more suitable for the growing needs of the city. West of the Asylum spreads out a great extension of Toronto, embracing Parkdale and Brockton, with designs on West Toronto Junction, which must soon seek to come into the city's embrace. In these thriving suburbs will be found a vast network of streets and avenues, with handsome villas and rows of contiguous houses,

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EXHIBITION GROUNDS.

LAKESIDE RESORTS IN THE VICINITY OF TORONTO.

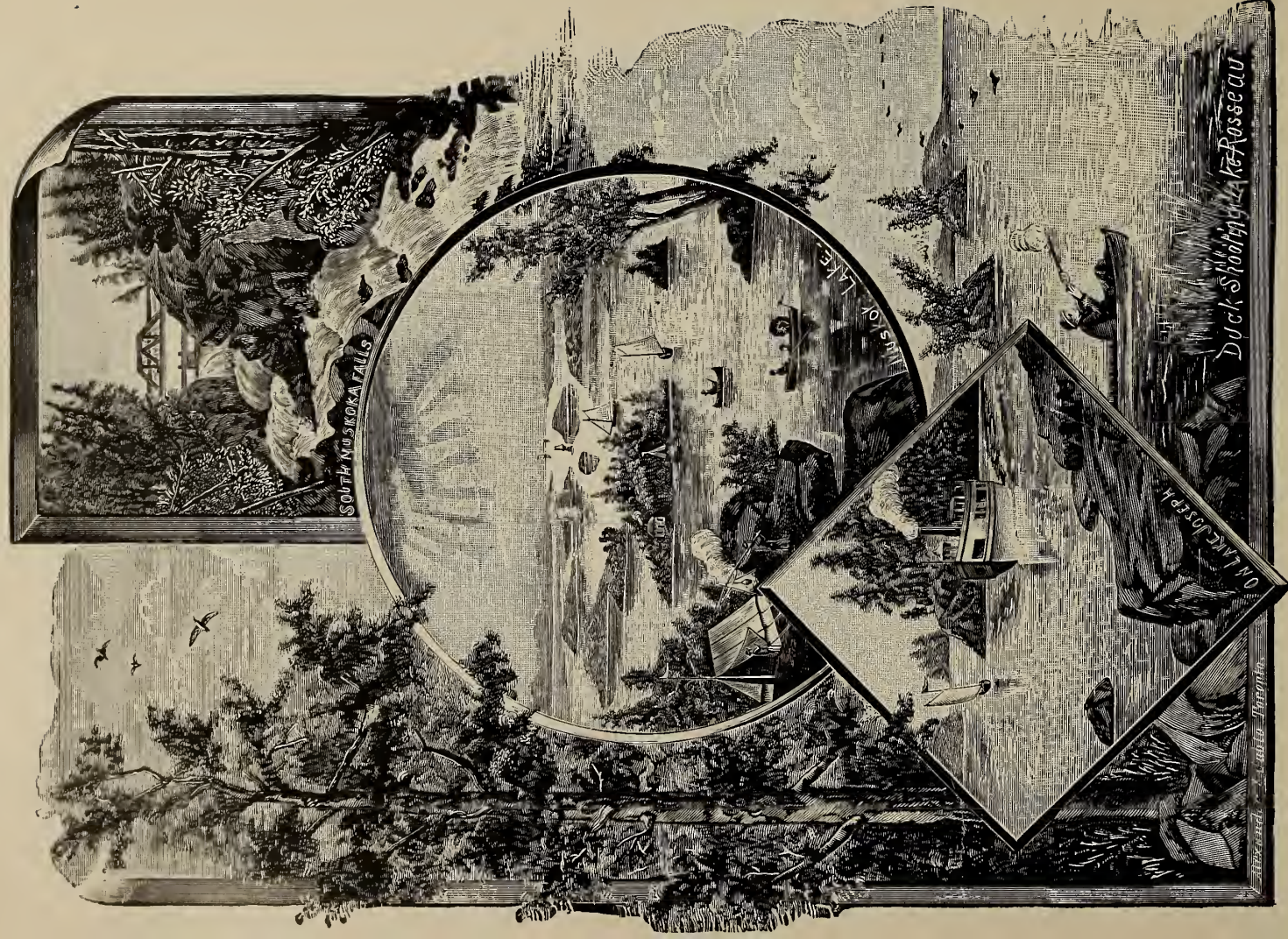
The magnificent waterways of Canada, while they are naturally the admiration of the stranger, have in the past been chiefly prized by her own people as the means of opening up the country, or as agencies in its commercial and industrial development. In early days these waterways were more the resort of fin and feather than they are now: then they were useful as bountiful sources from which to supply the settler's larder. Not a few of them have social and historic memories connected with the humbler era of pioneering days, when toil and privation well earned the later and happier hours of repose and pleasure. In recent years, when the country became opened up, and the lumber trade receded to the back settlements, these streams and sheets of water have been chiefly valued for their picturesqueness and their consequent attractiveness as summer resorts. Notably is this the case with the rivers and lakelets that lie to the north and east of Toronto. As "lovely Edens of the Northern Wave," they divide public favour with the steamboat tour, either across Lake Ontario to the Falls of Niagara, or down the St. Lawrence to the watering-places on the sea coast. Most of them will be found worthy a visit by the tourist, either for their romantic beauty, or as fishing resorts, and, in the season, as leading to the stalking-grounds of moose and deer. Of the watering-places that attract Torontonians, some are to be found to the north-eastward, in the numerous lakelets in the Peterboro' region, such as Rice, Scugog, Sturgeon, Balsam, and Stony Lakes; while others are situate on the Lake Erie or Lake Huron shore, such as Port Stanley and Goderich. Those, however, that draw the largest number of summer visitors are situate on the Georgian Bay, and especially in the lakeland regions of Muskoka and Parry Sound. For many years back, the waters of the Muskoka chain have been most frequented. This the increasing number of summer hotels and islands occupied by campers prove, while the railway to Gravenhurst, and the steamboat service on the lakes, furnish every facility for reaching them. The chief waters that compose the chain are the Muskoka, Joseph, and Rosseau Lakes. To those who enjoy lakeland scenery and are susceptible to the charms of nature, either in wild open disarray, or in coy seclusion, they present a panorama of thrilling pleasure and delight.

THE MUSKOKA LAKES.

To reach the island-gemmed lakes of the Muskoka region, there is, in the months of July and August of each year, a fast summer service by the N. & N.-W. Division of the Grand Trunk Railway. The average run is four hours, from Toronto to Gravenhurst, at the foot of the lakes. About half way the tedium of the trip is relieved by a partial circuit of the gleaming waters of Lake Simcoe and its northern entrepôt, wind-swept Couchiching. Historically, the region is replete with interest, as the fateful home of the Huron nation, which nearly two hundred and fifty years ago was laid waste by the decimating Iroquois, as the penalty of alliance with the French intruder, either as colonist or missionary. Nature herself seems to have long forgotten the tragedy, for where civilization has not gilded the scene, the forest has graciously hidden the scars and wounds of the conflict. Of the drear story of inter-tribal strife in the district, even the settler knows little ; and rarely to his dull ear do the beautiful Indian appellatives, in lake or bay, and stream or village, mean anything, or recall the once lordly possessors of the land whom he has unheedingly supplanted.

Like many other parts of the Province, the region we are traversing is being rapidly brought within the embrace of the railway system ; and close on its heels come first the settler, then the tourist. Where were once a realm of forest-wealth and tangled growths of interlacing boughs, with here and there a faintly traced pathway or “blazed” trail, which only the Indian or experienced woodsman could find his way through, there are clearings now open to the sunlight, fertile farms and busy industries, and a network of railroads, highways and other avenues of communication, which tap the lakes whither we are bound, and bring happily together the outer and inner world of life, work and enjoyment.

In the Muskoka district, to be accurate, we must say that the settler preceded the railway. It is a testimony to the wildness and picturesque character of the region that it was originally opened by free grants to the incomer. Stout of heart and limb must have been the early pioneers in the district, for appalling was the aspect of nature when first he entered it. Geologically, the approach to the region is both singular and interesting. At the gateway to the lakes is a curious uptilting of the ground floor of the primeval rock, and for miles around great masses of gneiss seem to



MUSKOKA LAKELAND SCENERY.

bar all progress, save, as it would seem, to the realms of the Cyclops. Once across this barrier, Nature, however, relaxes her frown and invites, with an alluring smile, all who would pay court to her. The configuration of the lakes delightfully defies description, so capricious was dame Nature when she hollowed out the beautiful and picturesque basin. On the yellow ground tint of the local maps of the region, the water-surface of the lakes—as we have elsewhere observed—looks as if one had upset a bottle of green ink over the paper, and the fluid had run over the sheet in the most fantastic fashion, circling round innumerable islands of all forms and sizes, leaving here a jutting-out point and there making a deep and promiscuously formed indentation.

Once on the steamer, the interest of the spectator is called forth anew with almost every revolution of the paddles. Now we are attracted by some tiny, moss-covered islet, a mere speck of rock above the water, but upon which, nevertheless, a few stunted specimens of the red pine of the region have contrived to gain and maintain foothold. Anon, we brush the margin of a densely-wooded island, whose shady ravines and hillsides are clothed with a vegetation almost tropical in its undisturbed luxuriance. But Nature is not only here the attraction. From point and island the pretty scene is overlooked by numberless Swiss-looking chalets and summer houses, and occasionally by the flag-crowned tents of campers of both sexes. Clustered round these Edens in the woods, or gaily grouped on the wharves, as the steamer stops to discharge or take on its living freight, are be vies of prettily-costumed women and young children ; while each nook or inlet is alive with all manner of rowing or sailing craft.

Some five hours steaming takes the charmed visitor to the head of navigation, either on Lake Joseph or Lake Rosseau. Here, as well as at scores of places of call on the passage, rest and comfort will be found at the hostelrys that invite to a sojourn, which, in the experience of the present writer, has always proved too short.

In their pictorial aspect, these pretty cupfuls of water resemble the Lake of the Thousand Islands, in the St. Lawrence. Each of them has a beauty and a distinctive character of its own. Perhaps the prettiest part of Lake Muskoka is the beautiful stretch of water between Beaumaris and Bala. Fine also is the run from the Narrows to Eilean Gowan, and from Point Kay to the Indian River. The lower end of Lake Rosseau, from Port Carling round to Port Sandfield, is also surpassingly fine. The lake-stretch from Hemlock Point to Port Cockburn, at the head of Lake Joseph,

presents a series of charming pictures, and pretty is the run into Shanty Bay and Craigie Lea on the same route. To our mind, however, nowhere on the whole chain of lakes can the tourist enjoy himself more than at Maplehurst, at the head of Lake Rosseau, where you have the advantage of elevation and the bracing tonic of a high latitude. Maplehurst is delightfully situated on a finely wooded bluff, which commands the view for ten miles down the lake, and overlooks the pretty basin, on the inner shore of which lies the slumbering Village of Rosseau. It is also in the vicinity of the magical stream, Shadow River, the show-place of the lakes, and the home, as imagination loves to depict it, of the Naiades, the trooping band of deities that preside over streams and fountains. To the witchery of the stream is added its magical power of mirroring, with surprising fidelity and minuteness, every twig and leaf of Nature's o'erarching canopy of tree and shrub. No one should fail to see Shadow River when the woods are ablaze with the colouring of a Canadian autumn.

The return to Toronto from Rosseau may be varied, at the pleasure of the visitor, by stage over the Colonization road to Parry Sound, thence by the island-archipelago of the Georgian Bay to historic Penetanguishene, and so back to the Provincial Capital.

THE FALLS OF NIAGARA.

This renowned spectacle of the New World, though not the rarity it once was to the traveller from the Old World, still draws, and will continue to draw, unless, with the loss of faith, the race loses its sense of awe and the power of being impressed by Nature's wonders. Nothing, it has often been said, can stale the majesty of Niagara—nothing, we repeat, but to have it written about. We are not venturing to commit that unpardonable sin ; all we purpose to do, is to note the proximity of the stupendous wonder to the Provincial Capital and to state that it is, naturally enough, the chief resort of the tourist who finds himself, for even a few days, a sojourner in the city. The visitor to the Falls may reach them from Toronto, either by steamer across the lake, or by rail, by way of Hamilton. The "Clifton House" is generally the objective point, as the hotel directly faces both the American and Canadian Falls, and from its windows



Specially engraved for]

NIAGARA: THE CANADIAN OR HORSE-SHOE FALLS.

[“Illustrated Toronto.”

and verandas a commanding view of the incomparable scene may be had. Happily, as the result of efforts made conjointly by the Ontario Government and by that of the State of New York, the neighbourhood is now cleared of the cheap shows and vulgar traffic, as well as of the numberless traps for the unwary, which hitherto desecrated the scene. On both sides of the river, the immediate precincts of the Falls have been expropriated by the authorities and converted into National Parks. Through both, run spacious carriage drives and winding paths for pedestrians, cut, for the most part, close by the river's brink, with entrancing views of the ever-changing and always impressive spectacle. The Falls should be seen from both sides of the river, though the finest and most comprehensive view is to be had from the Canadian side. From the latter you have the advantage of seeing both *chutes*, which at the entrance to Victoria Park are directly in front of you, and of being able to get a close inspection of the wider and grander Cataract, with the best view of the angry sweep of the larger body of water, as it races onward, in a succession of cascades and rapids, to take its final plunge into the spray-hidden cauldron of the Horse-shoe Falls. Exceptionally fine, however, is the view of the American Falls from Prospect Park—the New York State reservation—and, particularly, from the bridge across the rapids to Goat Island. Fine also is the outlook from some points on the latter of the Horse-shoe Falls; while from the bridges that connect the islands known as “The Three Sisters,” the tourist will be charmed with the breakers and impressed by the volume and headlong force of the waters that shoot madly past beneath his feet.

A walk or drive through the Canadian reservation enables one to see the Falls, as we have said, to the best advantage, for every turn or angle in the road presents some new and unrivalled picture. At the “Rambler's Rest” you are immediately in front of the American Falls, and have at your feet the yawning chasm which the wild waters have through æons of time hollowed out in the bed of the river. Here may be seen the little steamer, *The Maid of the Mist*, ferrying her live freight over the treacherous emerald waters, flecked with foam, or daringly venturing, enveloped in clouds of mist and spray, close to the seething mass which has just been precipitated over the Horse-shoe. A little further on is “Inspiration Point,” from which another grand view may be had of the river and of both Falls, the Canadian one growing gruesomely upon the observer's appalled senses as he approaches Table Rock and stands peering down into the vast abyss, the rumbling thunder of the mighty Cataract in his ears. At this point the traveller will find

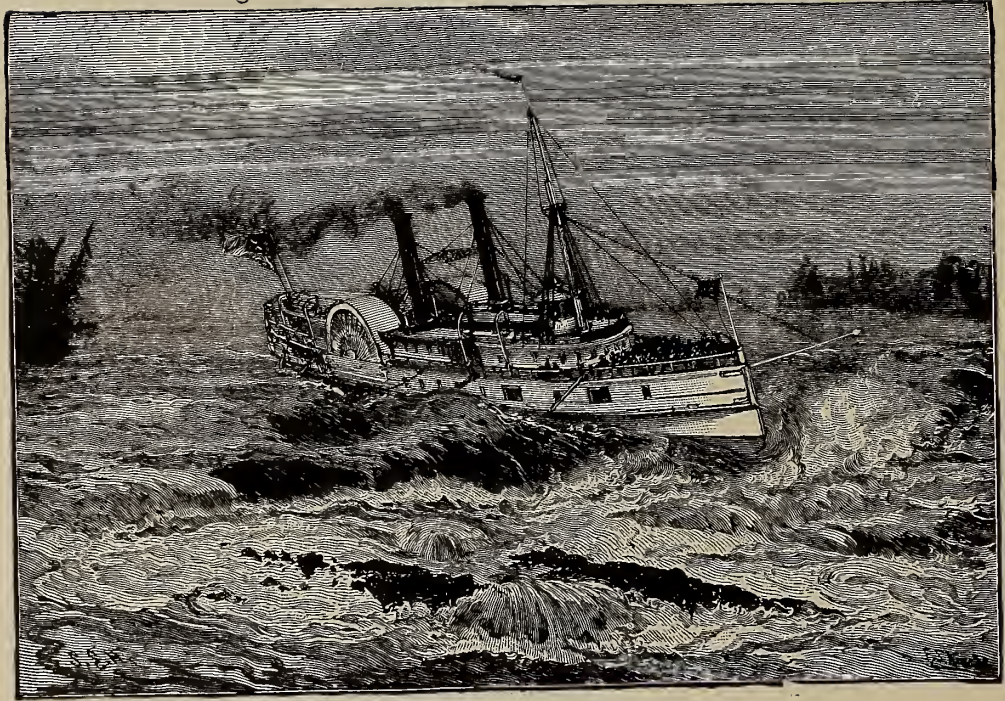
his gaze transfixed by the scene of wild tumult that meets the view, the one restful spot upon which the eye can alight being the deep recess in the centre of the Horse-shoe, where the greatest mass of waters appears to precipitate itself and to take on a dark green tint very grateful to the sense perceptions, wearied by the disorder and overpowered by the distractions of the scene. But great as is the spell that holds the observer rooted to the spot, the wild uproar will be found more than he cares long to listen to, if the drenching spray has not already driven him from the place. There is a relief, too, in passing away from Table Rock, until the bewildered mind can recover its equanimity and the eye refresh itself with a change of view, cooled by the breeze that sweeps down from the rapids in the wider reaches of the river. Beyond this point, the Victoria Park extends for over a mile, the impetuous flood sweeping past in vast masses of up-tost billows. Beyond this again, lie the "Dufferin Islands," very attractive in their idyllic beauty. But we are laying ourselves open to the charge of attempting a description of the Falls of Niagara, which are indescribable, and of venturing to paint a scene unpaintable. The tourist, if he is lucky enough to visit Niagara, will see it not with our eyes, but with his own. To the local guide books he will refer should he need further information.

THE THOUSAND ISLANDS, AND THE RAPIDS OF THE ST. LAWRENCE.

It is to be frankly admitted that to the tourist the facilities, as we write, are not good for "doing" the St. Lawrence. The steamboat service on Lake Ontario and the river is sadly inadequate, astonishingly so considering the rare attractions of the trip. Until a better lake-service is provided, with increased sleeping accommodation and less necessity for a scramble at meals, the travel, we fear, will go by rail, on the north of the lake to Kingston, on the south to Cape Vincent, or Clayton, thence by boat for the really enjoyable part of the excursion down the St. Lawrence to Montreal. Boarding the steamer at the foot of the lake, an all-day sail of unusual interest and keenest delight lies before the tourist in the descent of the noble river. For forty miles, of the hundred and sixty from Kingston to Montreal, the path of the steamer is through the labyrinthine windings of the far-famed Thousand Islands. These are scattered over the

bosom of the river with a prodigality which Nature has hardly elsewhere shown, and which is equalled only by the variety, in size, form, colour, and general aspect, of the islands themselves. In number, they are reckoned to exceed 1,750, the largest being some hundred acres in extent, the smallest, a mere speck of verdure-clad rock, crowned, it may be, by a single tree, proudly reflecting its autumnal glory in the gleaming expanse of the lake.

If one wants to saturate one's self with the poetry of the scene, and to become acquainted with its local associations, in connection with the lumber trade, the distinctive commerce of Canada, the tourist should, if possible, make the trip, including the "running" of the rapids, on a raft. To the beauty of the trip will be added its novelty, in enabling the visitor to come in contact with the French-Canadian raftsman, a figure wholly unique to the conventional mind, ignorant of diversified



DESCENT OF THE LACHINE RAPIDS, ST. LAWRENCE RIVER.

types of national character or of unusual phases of social and industrial life. On the little social world of the raft, the traveller will get his first delightful experience of Old France in the New World. There he will also hear snatches of Canadian boat songs, the characteristic beguilement of the *Voyageur*, as he “poles” his raft or bends, with rhythmic measure, to the dripping oar. Very musical are those old Norman and Breton *chansons*, though rude are their couplets.

To the lover of Nature, in her placid moods and restful tranquillity, we are not sure that the intrusion of the thousands who now gather at the several great denominational camps on the Island Parks in the vicinity of Alexandria Bay, will by any means be an attraction. But man is a social animal. In the main, he loves a crowd and high excitements, with proximity to hotel comforts and even luxuries. So the vogue has to be fallen in with, though the excitement, we should imagine, must pall, and the temptation soon assert its force, to steal away to the repose and beauty of the many delightful sylvan retreats in the quieter parts of the river. Meanwhile the afternoon sun finds our steamer unconsciously increasing her pace, as she nears the rapids, and excitement among all on board arises as the traveller feels the novel sensation of “going down hill by water.” These descents in the bed of the St. Lawrence are, like descents in the bed of other rivers, no scientific marvel; but it is a marvel, and an exhilaration of more than usual novelty, to make passage by them, not in a canoe, but in a large and densely crowded steamer. But while there is the maximum of excitement, there is, we believe, the minimum of danger, though the experience is often trying to the nerves, especially when the steamboat makes a lurch in the chaotic waters and a volume of spray is dashed in the faces of the thrilled voyagers. Nor are the nervous reassured by a glance at the extra-manned wheel-house, and from that to the foam-lashed avenues of waters, down which the vessel speeds as if to certain destruction. The situation becomes more thrilling with the descent of the rapids nearer to Montreal. These increase in violence in their headlong course down the river, while the danger seems to become more appalling as the channel is hidden in spray. At last, comes a return to still water—that is, still by comparison with the maelstrom from which the vessel has emerged—and the fair, royal City of Montreal and the magnificent Victoria Bridge come grandly into view. Here “ILLUSTRATED TORONTO” takes a courteous leave of the tourist, who, in the luxurious hostelry of THE WINDSOR, will no doubt be tempted to take for his *cicerone* “ILLUSTRATED MONTREAL.”

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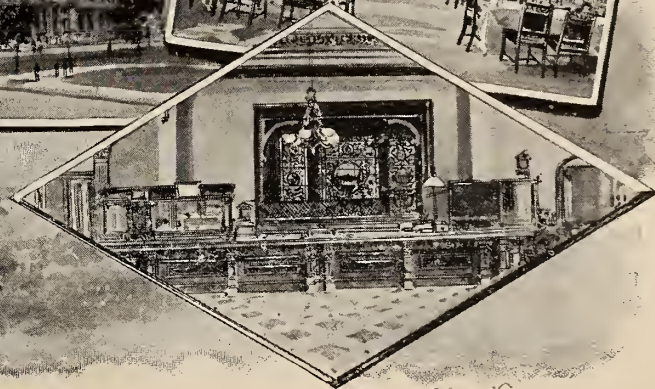
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WINDSOR HOTEL, MONTREAL.

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